

# **SWANAGE CRICKET CLUB**

[www.swanagecricketclub.co.uk](http://www.swanagecricketclub.co.uk)

Sadly notice is hereby given that the

**2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF SWANAGE CRICKET CLUB  
HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO THE  
COVID PANDEMIC AND THE  
NATIONAL LOCKDOWN AND WILL  
NOT BE HELD UNTIL SPRING 2021  
(DATE AND AGENDA TO BE ADVISED)**

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By order of the Committee  
Mr M Wells  
Hon. Secretary

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SWANAGE CRICKET CLUB HELD AT THE PAVILION ON FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 at 7.30 p.m.**

## **PRESENT:**

R. Barker (Chairman), M. Wells (Secretary), S. Gee, T. Ives, D. Morton, K. Southern, C. Wood, C. Wells, P. Barker, Mrs A. Woods, R. Willcox, S. Goldsack, J. Gregory, Mrs M Nash.

Although the attendance was short of a quorum, the members present agreed to proceed with the meeting but to defer any contentious votes to an EGM should they arise.

## **APOLOGIES:**

P. Clark (President), P. Constable (Treasurer), H. Cocke, Pauline Wisker, D. Goldsack, Jill Benwell, P. Norman, G. Willcocks, J. Lewis, Katrina Higham, R. Tiller, R. Selby, J. Constable, P. Dyer, R. Norman, Wyn Wells, A. Howse, Beryl Mitchell.

## **SILENCE**

The Chairman called the meeting to order by asking members to stand in a one minute silence for Tom Yeates, May Gee, Betty Hewett, Tom Spurling and John Pullen who had all passed away in the year and to Miriam Brown who had sadly passed away in 2018.

## **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM:**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Secretary for preparing the minutes of the previous AGM which had been sent out with the notice of this meeting. The minutes were proposed by R. Willcox and seconded by K. Southern as being a true record of that meeting.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Chairman's report had been circulated with the notice of this meeting. There were no questions and the report was proposed by S. Goldsack and seconded by Mrs M Nash.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

The Secretary's report had been circulated with the notice of this meeting. There were no questions and the report was proposed by T. King and seconded by Mrs M Nash.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Although Treasurer, P. Constable, was unable to attend to deliver a report copies of the accounts were available for those attending and he had sent an email thanking Tim Ives and Dave Morton for their help in banking income. It was also highlighted that the accounts showed the contributions and donations from various areas. S. Goldsack highlighted:

- the low bar profit. The Chairman, R. Barker, said that the accounts had not been adjusted to reflect high levels of wastage from real ale casks. Costs were also affected by the introduction of the sugar tax and a shortage of gas canisters which had considerably inflated costs. When such factors had been taken into account he had calculated the profit to be more around 36%. M. Wells said the historic profit margin was between 35-40% and confirmed that an interim committee meeting had been held to identify ways to increase the margin. S. Goldsack felt that on the figures provided the bar should be making around 6k profit. C. Wood suggested likewise.
- the £13,509 showing as a grant distorted the income generated by the club. The Chairman advised that this was linked to the Co-Op Community fund.
- that membership was down.
- heat and light costs had declined. D. Morton explained this was because the club had traditionally been paying low estimated bills and so had to catch up in 2018 when a large balancing bill had been received.

The Chairman advised that there had been no update regarding the application to the Talbot Trust to help fund the proposed development of the pavilion. He then thanked the Treasurer for his work. The report was proposed by C. Wood and seconded by Mrs M Nash.

### **YOUTH REPORT: 2019**

The Youth Representative's report had been circulated with the notice of this meeting. The Chairman congratulated the work done during the year by Tim Ives and the team of coaches. The report was proposed by S. Goldsack and seconded by C. Wells.

### **WOMEN AND GIRLS REPORT: 2019**

The Women and Girls report had been circulated with the notice of this meeting and the Chairman congratulated those involved. The report was proposed by C. Wells and seconded by Mrs. M Nash.

### **CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2019: SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> XI**

Although there was no Captain's report the Chairman, R. Barker, praised Ryan Norman's captaincy in leading the side to a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the County League Division 1. Sadly, however, the league rules only allowed 1 team from the league to be promoted.

### **CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2019: SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> XI** (presented by Ron Barker)

For those who were not aware I took over as Captain of the 2nd XI when Tim Ives resigned in June. Although my report will cover the whole season I will keep it short.

Our statistics for the season was that we played 16, winning 4, losing 11 with 1 no result. In our league 2 teams went up and 2 teams get relegated - we ended up 3rd from bottom (or 7th from top if you like) on 158 points. This was only 2 points more than the team below us that was relegated – and that was only after we won our last game off the last ball of the season – more of that later.

Our season was a difficult one for a variety of reasons – we lost players to the 1st XI and so lacked consistency with line ups and we also struggled to score sufficient runs to put teams under real pressure. This then put our bowlers under pressure and although they stuck to their task well there were several games when dropped catches let the opposition off the hook. We had some odd injuries too – two that come to mind are Mike Wells accidentally screwing his hand to a drain pipe, and Geoff Willcocks, who was caught by Tim Ives' knee when both were going for a catch at Martinstown. The good news for the bowler was that Geoff still held the catch. The bad news for Geoff was that Tim's knee had broken his jaw – looking back at the statistics it seems that Geoff's jaw was the only thing that Tim caught all season!

The 2nd XI fielded 26 different players over the season and although old hands like myself and Tim won the bowling and batting trophies it is important to highlight that everyone tried hard whatever the circumstances and everyone's contribution was vital. I was impressed with how Ryan Stearn bowled throughout the season and how Freddie and Harry Long bowled in their first senior league matches. Mike Nash bowled brilliantly, without reward for much of the time and Pete Barker always kept things tight .... despite being on one leg! Batting wise Pete Baczala, Mike Nash and Scott Orchard all scored between 230 - 270 runs alongside Tim Ives' 440 runs but the season and team spirit revolves around everyone and includes everyone – people like:

Chris Wood who was always willing to open the batting and, despite a run of low scores, got his reward with a career best 49. Sam Willcocks was always willing to help the 1sts and 2nds out, sometimes at short notice and often with little sleep and Matt Dunster, whose efforts with the bat was finally rewarded with a match winning 40 run partnership with Harry Long that saw us beat Broadstone off the very last ball of the season to keep us up. This was a great team effort which showed our true ability in chasing down 189 on a difficult rain affected wicket. It was also our own world cup final in which everyone contributed with either bat or ball and won by Harry with a well aimed cut for 4 through the slips!!

I'm not sure what 2020 will bring but there is promise as more players come through from the youth and look to prove themselves. However, for the moment I obviously need to thank all the players for their efforts which also includes umpiring, scoring and driving and to Tim Ives for captaining the side in the early season.

Needless to say many thanks too to Sharon Ives for her wonderful teas and to Dave Morton and Mike Wells for helping me prepare the wickets. Here's to 2020!

### **CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2019: SUNDAY XI** (presented by Pete Barker)

P. Barker felt it had been a successful season but would welcome more fixtures as there were several blank weekends. He was pleased with the progress shown by the youth players and thanked all the players for their efforts and support during the season. He also thanked Ron Barker and Dave Morton for preparing the wickets and Natasha Norman for her brilliant teas.

### **CROQUET REPORT 2019:**

The croquet representative's report had been circulated with the notice of this meeting. The Chairman thanked the croquet club for their continued support and highlighted the rapport between the croquet club and the cricket club had developed considerably over the last couple of years. The report was proposed by K. Southern and seconded by D. Morton.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The candidates and voting for Club positions were as follows:

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>PROPOSER</b>	<b>SECONDER</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
President	P. Clark	D. Morton	S. Goldsack	Carried
Chairman	R. Barker	R. Wilcox	Mrs M Nash	Carried
Treasurer	P. Constable	Mrs M Nash	Mrs A Wood	Carried
Secretary	M. Wells	D. Morton	S. Goldsack	Carried
Fixture Secretary	M. Wells	R. Barker	Mrs M Nash	Carried
Team Secretary	Vacant			
Club Welfare Officer	Mrs M. Nash	Mrs A Wood	P. Barker	Carried
PR and Media Officer	M. Nash	R. Barker	D. Morton	Carried
Club Development Officer	P. Constable	Mrs M Nash	Mrs A Wood	Carried
Website Administrator	P. Norman	R. Barker	D. Morton	Carried
Social Secretary	Mrs M Nash	Mrs A Wood	C. Wood	Carried
Membership Secretary	D. Morton	S. Goldsack	R. Wilcox	Carried
League Secretary	M. Wells	C. Wood	P. Barker	Carried
Youth Coordinator	T. Ives	D. Morton	Mrs A Wood	Carried
Disability Coordinator	T. Ives	D. Morton	Mrs A Wood	Carried
Women/Girls Coordinator	T. Ives	D. Morton	Mrs A Wood	Carried
Volunteer Coordinator	Vacant			
Pavilion Manager	D. Morton	R. Barker	S. Goldsack	Carried
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	R. Norman	S. Goldsack	M. Wells	Carried
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Vice-Captain	C. Wells	S. Goldsack	P. Barker	Carried
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	S. Goldsack	T. Ives	C. Wells	Carried 5 - 3
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	R. Barker	M. Wells	R. Willcox	Not carried
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Vice-Captain	R. Barker	S. Goldsack	R. Willcox	Carried
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI Captain	T. Ives	C. Wells	S. Goldsack	Carried
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI Vice-Captain	VACANT			
Sunday XI Captain	P. Barker	S. Goldsack	M. Wells	Carried
Sunday XI Vice-Captain	C. Wood	Mrs M Nash	Mrs A Wood	Carried
<b>SELECTION COMMITTEE</b>				
1. Chairman - Nominee	M. Wells	R. Barker	T. King	Not carried
1. Chairman - Nominee	T. Ives	S. Goldsack	C. Wood	Carried 6 v 3
2.	C. Wood	Mrs A. Wood	Mrs M. Nash	Carried
3.	R. Barker	M. Wells	Mrs M. Nash	Carried
4.	C. Wells	S. Goldsack	M. Wells	Carried
5.	T. King	Mrs M. Nash	D. Morton	Carried
6.	M. Wells	R. Barker	Mrs A. Wood	Carried
<b>BAR COMMITTEE</b>				
1. Chairman - Nominee	R. Norman	M. Wells	R. Barker	Not carried

1. Chairman - Nominee	C. Wood	Mrs A Wood	Mrs M Nash	Carried 6 v 3
2.	R. Norman	R. Barker	D.Morton	Carried
3.	R. Barker	D. Morton	M. Wells	Carried
4.	D. Morton	R. Barker	Mrs A. Wood	Carried
5.	P. Barker	C. Wood	M. Wells	Carried
6.	Mrs M Nash	Mr S. Goldsack	Mrs A Wood	Carried
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE				
1.	J. Gregory	T. Ives	Mrs A Wood	Carried
2.	Mrs. A Wood	Mrs M Nash	C. Wood	Carried
3.				
4.				

During the various elections the following issues arose:

- T. Ives suggested that candidates competing for the same post should offer a few words about how they would look to carry out the role in question.
- The Chairman highlighted that the Bar Committee had to be more pro-active and supportive of the chairman of the sub-committee as too much had been left to the current incumbent, Ryan Norman, to deal with. As a result he, M. Wells and D. Morton had all volunteered to sit on the sub-committee next year to help with its operation. He also added that the club was going to apply for a full license and, as his name was likely to be on it as the designated premises supervisor, those serving behind the bar would have to sign disclaimers acknowledging their roles and responsibilities when serving. T. Ives said he would prefer the chairman to be someone local.
- T. Ives recalled that the chairman of the selection sub-committee was elected at its first meeting. The Secretary, M. Wells explained that the Constitution stated the role as being an Executive Officer of the club and so it had to be nominated and voted on at the AGM. If the role had been voted on at a selection committee it might have been when nobody had formally stood for election at the AGM.
- Chairman, R. Barker said that many people had expressed a view about selection during the season and said that it was important to remember that decisions were made by the sub-committee as a whole. It was therefore inappropriate for people to blame an individual if a player hadn't been selected for a match. He also called for more people to participate on the committee. The number of candidates that then stood for the selection committee, and that were ultimately voted on to it, outnumbered the available slots as set out in the constitution. However, it was thought that a solution could be found before the first selection meeting.
- Mrs Nash reported that M. Nash was happy to stand again as publicity officer but that he recognised that he hadn't had much success in getting match reports printed as the advertiser/echo would either review statistics from Playcricket or go direct to Ryan Norman if they were considering a report. His own attempts to get something issued for either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> XI as a matter of course had failed and he wondered if anyone with better connections would have more success. Keith Southern suggested a contact at Purbeck Radio who might be able to help nearer the start of the season
- T. Ives preferred to keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Vice-Captaincy open at present but mentioned M. Dunster and Ms L. Wood as possible candidates.
- J. Gregory queried what the aims of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were. C. Wells responded that the stated aim was that the 1<sup>st</sup> XI play at the highest level and that the club strive to ensure that the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI gets as near to them as possible. Mrs A Wood added that the selection committee looked to pick the strongest sides from those available.
- R. Willcox stated that he didn't think it necessary for him to continue as Touring Team Secretary as players for these matches were now selected by the main selection committee and notified via Teamer. The meeting agreed and thanked Roger for all the hard work he had done in this role in previous years.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MATCH FEES:**

- A proposal to increase Full, Family and Junior membership fees by £5 was presented. T. Ives further proposed that the £5 increase be extended to include Social and Student membership categories but this did not receive a seconder.

- It was agreed to reduce the Sunday match fee to £5 per head but to charge this to all players regardless of age. It was also agreed to retain the current fee for those playing on both Saturday and Sunday at £14 and to keep the existing mileage rates.
- Mrs M Nash wanted it recognised that parents were being asked to pay £10 towards nets but agreed with Mrs A Wood that the overall cost to parents still represented great value for money. Chairman, R Barker agreed, highlighting that parents at other clubs paid far more than Swanage for their youth training and match fees.
- S. Goldsack queried VP membership. Mrs A Wood explained that the Management Committee had agreed to remove this membership category with effect from 2020 as numbers were dwindling. However, in doing so, it was intending to upgrade those remaining VPs to Honorary Members. The following fees were voted through:

SUBJECT	PROPOSAL	PROPOSER	SECONDER	VOTE
Senior Subs	£45.00 (+ £5)	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried
Social Subs	£25.00 (unchanged)	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried
Student	£25.00 (unchanged)	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried
Junior Subs	£25.00 (+ £5)	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried
Family Subs	£65.00 (+ £5)	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried
VP Membership	-			
Match Fees	Sat - £10.00 / Sun £5.00 Both - £14.00 (was £14)	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried
Junior Match Fee (including full time education)	Junior – ½ the above except Sundays when £5 charged regardless of age.	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried
Mileage	Up to 75 miles - £12.00 over 75 miles - £18.00	D. Morton	R. Barker	Carried

### **ELECTION OF AUDITORS:**

As with previous years it was no longer necessary to elect club auditors at the AGM as the Treasurer was a qualified accountant and the accounts were verified by an independent examiner.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. R. Willcox asked if the results of the 250 Club draw could be put on the Notice Board. He also hoped that more members would attend nets and suggested that the club needed to attract more members to the AGM. Mrs Nash and Mrs Wood said they had been considering this aspect and that they were thinking of laying on some food at the next AGM.
2. The date of the next Management Committee meeting was set as 5<sup>th</sup> December.

The meeting closed 10.30p.m.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020**

It is impossible to open my report without first acknowledging the devastating impact the COVID pandemic has had on individuals, families and businesses, not least those club members who worked at Harrow House until it sadly had to close. Needless to say I hope all members kept well during the summer.

Against the pandemic background it seems irrelevant to write about the season but I am nevertheless delighted to say that we did manage to get a fair amount of cricket in the few weeks that we were allowed. Although the rules of the mini league that was organised by Dorset Cricket Board did not allow promotion or relegation it did enable our Saturday 3rd XI to make their debut. We were also fortunate that several of our regular touring sides were still able to travel down for Sunday matches during the later end of the season and in-between times we played a number of interclub friendlies. So, as usual, my thanks to our selection committee and captains for their efforts during the season as well as to all those that played. It was heartening to see some solid performances from younger players stepping up into adult cricket and despite the circumstances there was a positive vibe around the club.

That we were able to play at all was the result of the tireless efforts of our own management committee who had to read through pages of ECB/government guidance released over the season to ensure our facilities were COVID secure. The level of effort and detail required simply can't be underestimated and I must thank Mike Wells who oversaw the re-opening of our nets and maintained the required track and trace booking system that meant we were one of the first clubs in Dorset to have net facilities available to their members. Mike and others then had to give up time to oversee the net seasons to ensure all ran safely and smoothly. A COVID Sub Committee also ensured that our pavilion and bar could function as normally as possible when we were finally allowed to stage matches. In this respect my thanks must also go to Chris Wood for overseeing the bar and to Angie Wood, Michelle Nash and Tim Ives for completing the pavilion risk assessment. Tim Ives and Linda Hernandez also stepped into the Development and Treasurer roles vacated by Peter Constable who resigned during the season.

The loss of Harrow House will be badly felt at the club as, aside from missing those employees that played for us, they also provided sponsorship and significant income from our annual 20/20 Mike Wheeler memorial match and their own rounders day which they held at the ground. We obviously wish everyone who worked there well.

Unfortunately the pandemic meant we were unable to make much progress with our plans to extend the pavilion changing rooms. Although the hopes that I mentioned last year of securing funding from The Talbot Trust fell through, discussions were well underway with the ECB about obtaining the remaining funding from them when their funding review meeting was cancelled as a result of the national lockdown. We understand that their decisions are now due in the new year and we remain encouraged by the fact that our project was well received by the ECB when we submitted it to them. In other positive news we have just been told by the Co-op that we have been successful in the latest round of the Co-op Community Grant Fund which runs between 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.

In terms of wider club finances I am satisfied that we continue to be on a sound footing aided by various grants, donations and a bequest from the estate of former member and scorer Mike Budd. As ever, I also remain extremely grateful to our sponsors and the croquet club for their continued contributions to club overheads such as ground maintenance costs and insurance charges as these make the job of running the club that much easier.

Finally I must also highlight the groundwork that Craig Wells did to ensure that the rear square was ready to host 3rd XI matches and thank Dave Morton who helped me maintain the main square and pavilion over the course of the season. Although this involves many hours of work each week I personally found it a welcome distraction from world events!

I hope we can look forward to a more normal 2021 but in the meantime I wish everyone well and trust you manage to stay safe in the months ahead.

**Ron Barker - Chairman**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020**

Despite the COVID pandemic it was reassuring to me that life at the cricket club carried on relatively normally in 2020, albeit with no matches being played until mid July! Certainly, the lockdown and lack of cricket didn't mean that the Committee was left twiddling its thumbs as a wide range of issues had still to be dealt with.

Although the Committee was unable to meet face to face during lockdown we managed to progress things via emails and the occasional zoom meeting. We also meet 8 times either side of the lockdown period. Needless to say much of our focus was dominated by COVID but up to March it was very much business as usual with indoor nets taking place and the ground and pavilion being readied for the season. In this period we obtained agreement from the council to enable members to park cars on the grass verge to the right of the drive as you enter the ground. Ron Barker negotiated price reductions from our drinks supplier and I also obtained a full alcohol premises license from Dorset Council to replace the premises certificate that had proved to be inadequate for our current needs. Craig Wells was working hard to prepare the rear field and Tim Ives also had some optimistic news about ECB funding the pavilion extension. Although we have to wait until the new year for any more news we remain hopeful of a positive outcome. In the meantime however, grant applications to cover ground maintenance costs and a COVID support grant from the Council were successful. As the Chairman has mentioned in his report we have also recently found out that the application that Tim submitted to the Co-op Community Grant Fund for 2020/21 was successful which is great news for the club.

During the lockdown Ron Barker and Dave Morton managed to work within national guidelines to keep the outfield, square and pavilion well maintained in the hope of cricket returning at some stage and Craig Wells readied the rear field for 3rd XI matches. As lockdown continued, and it became more obvious that any playing season would be significantly truncated, the Management Committee decided to waive membership fees for 2020, with those that did pay in advance having their membership rolled over to 2021. However, the main work followed once ECB issued guidance to enable clubs to open nets, albeit under strict conditions to ensure social distancing, track and trace and hygiene rules etc were followed. Although this proved quite onerous I'm happy to say that Swanage was one of the first clubs in Dorset to open their nets to members and I'd like to thank everyone who gave up their time to oversee the sessions during the many days that we had the nets open.

Going further, a COVID sub-committee was then created to oversee the safe use of the pavilion and bar for when cricket finally returned. In other events Linda Hernandez returned as Treasurer following Peter Constable's decision to resign and the very sad demise of Harrow House meant that the club was able to buy some of their chairs for the pavilion as well as acquire a flag pole! Harrow House also very kindly donated their Mike Wheeler memorial bench to the club to reflect the fact that Mike had been a regular player at the club in the past.

Despite the short season there were still noteworthy performances from Mike Hernandez, Geoff Willcocks and Sam Willcocks, who each hit centuries, plus 5 wicket hauls for Sid Nash and Jack Grace. Ryan Stearn also bagged a hat trick whilst playing for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI! All 3 Saturday sides performed well and our Sunday XI ended the season on a high by beating Poole Town in the Bob Massey Cup. It was also heartening to see so many games well attended with many members and guests making use of the new bar license and the fine weather to watch matches on both the front and rear pitches.

I usually end my reports by thanking a range of people for their efforts but bearing in mind the unique circumstances and challenges created by COVID I think the whole committee should be applauded for carrying on in such testing times. Thank you too to the croquet club for their help and to the sponsors mentioned below who continued to support the club during the year.

**Mike Wells, Secretary**

**Club Sponsors and Advertisers:** A big thank you to: The Masala, The Pier Head, PTN Systems, Suttles, PJC Accounting, Purbeck Kitchens, Woodlands Landscaping and Building Services, Swanage Holiday Properties, Ellis Jones Solicitors, 1st Call Training, MKL Accounting, GHM, Oliver Miles, The Greyhound, Elysium and Jordan Williams Law, Dino's, Holme Farm, Harrow House, Swanage Carnival, Greenheat, Swanage Golf Games, C and C Engineering.

## **YOUTH REPORT 2020**

Despite being such a short season, it has been one of huge achievement for Swanage's junior players from our U8s playing their first games right up to the numbers of juniors and former juniors playing across the adult teams.

A tied game against Parley was the highlight for the U8ss, whilst the U10s played their first hard ball matches – growing in confidence game by game. The older teams continued to build on their previous season's experiences with the U11s and U12/13s playing some great cricket and winning a number of matches. The U15s are starting to become a really competitive team, with those playing adult cricket taking the lead. They finished the season with a great win in a local derby against Bere Regis.

As always a huge thanks to the numerous people who helped throughout the winter and summer – nothing would happen without your support

**Tim Ives – Youth Secretary**

## **WOMEN AND GIRLS' SOFTBALL REPORT 2020**

Our Women's section has been going from strength to strength. Having taken part in Festivals over the last few years this winter we joined the West Dorset Indoor Softball League. Over a series of weekends. Swanage played some great cricket winning some and losing some but always enjoying the game and all those playing were able to contribute to the success. We had reached the final's day as one of the 3 best teams before lockdown meant an end to this tournament and at that point an end to our cricket.

Sadly, the summer saw training only though we did take the opportunity to start playing a bit of hardball cricket as we continue to look forward to the future.

**Tim Ives – Youth Secretary**

## **CROQUET REPORT 2020**

The playing season was heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, croquet is a sport which readily lends itself to social distancing so it was possible to commence regular club day play in mid-May (normally mid-April), albeit with restricted capacity and the requirement to pre-book timed slots via the Club website. The arrangements proved to be workable with almost all members playing at some time.

Sadly, the Club lost two of its strongest players, William Ormerod and Tony Allan, during the year:

- To quote the Croquet Association obituary William was 'a legend of the Croquet world'. In a playing career of over 65 years he had excelled at both codes of the game (Association Croquet and Golf Croquet). At the former he had won several national competitions and had represented both England and GB at the international level. At both codes he had represented Dorset for many years in the inter-counties' competitions, including the occasions on which Dorset were the winners. For Swanage he had been instrumental, together with Roy Smith, in the founding of the Croquet Club back in 2005 and had been an ardent supporter ever since.
- Tony succumbed to a long-term illness which had prevented his playing since the end of the 2018 season but, in his day, he had been a regular member of the Club's league teams and had represented Dorset in the inter-counties' competition in 2015 and 2016.

Another former member, Brian Boreham, also died from a long-term illness.

At the end of the 2019 season membership stood at 76. The decision was made not to collect any full membership fees in 2020 with any money already paid being carried over to 2021; new members or returning members would pay £25 to be passed on to the Cricket Club. Despite this, several existing members did not renew their membership, leaving capacity to accept new members. To capitalise on a national upswing in the popularity of croquet due to it being one of the best social-distancing sports available, we undertook a local advertising campaign via radio, social media, local press, and posters. This offered membership at £25 this year rather than the normal £50. The results were encouraging, garnering several new members (some showing considerable playing talent) so that membership at the end of the season was 82.

Because of the coronavirus situation the South West Federation abandoned all league competitions for the 2020 season. With a growing number of members interested in competitive play Swanage had intended to enter a team in the High Handicap league for the first time as well as continuing in the Handicap league in which the Club has a history of strong performances.

Friendly matches were also affected with only one being played. Swanage decisively defeated East Dorset 20-5 at home even though the teams were evenly matched on paper.

20 people played in the Club's annual Bob Oliver competition with the trophies won by Greg Vaughn and Helen Diconimos, both first time winners. In addition to the handicap singles competition running throughout the season, a short level-play singles competition was introduced. For these competitions Bruno Charron made two new trophies, to be known as the Roy Smith Trophy and the William Ormerod Trophy.

The Club remains financially sound. An application was made to Sport England for a grant offered to sports clubs to help with any financial hardships caused by the coronavirus lockdown. By asking modestly for £3500 rather than

the maximum £10000 available the request was successful. The Croquet committee agreed to pay £3300 of this to the Cricket Club representing:

- Contribution to insurance premium - £400
- Maintenance of grass cutting equipment - £700
- Payment for hygiene arrangements during lockdown - £200
- Notional rental of ground in lieu of membership fees - £2000 (equivalent to 80 members)

Following the previous year's efforts on two of the four lawns, similar work is planned on one further lawn over the current closed playing season. The objective is to remove any hollows by scarifying and tining the area, then adding some fine-graded topsoil to the hollows to improve both usability and drainage, and finally reseeding any bare areas.

Apart from continuing with the winter fortnightly indoor games mornings, all the other planned social events were unable to proceed.

At the November 2019 AGM there was a change of Chairman with Greg Vaughn replacing Pauline Windle.

**Keith Southern**  
**Croquet Representative**